

MEDIA RELEASE

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PSD ISSUES REVISED DRAFT OF VERMONT TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN & INVITES FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT

Montpelier, Vt.-Building on the draft state telecommunications plan released by Governor Douglas in March, the Public Service Department today issued the *Vermont Telecommunications Plan, Final Draft* and announced an additional public comment period before it adopts a final plan. The Department revised the draft after considering written comments and comments it received at four public hearings in April.

The plan continues to address major ongoing developments in the telecommunications industry, including the growing importance of broadband and wireless telecommunications service.

“We appreciate the input we received in writing and at our public hearings,” said Public Service Commissioner David O’Brien. “We’ve made a number of changes, including expanding our wireless coverage goal to include all numbered highways in the state by 2010. We are also proposing that state utility regulators conduct more of their business on-line.” The Commissioner noted that the revised draft contained updates to some of the technical information contained in the plan, including revised maps showing areas served by broadband service.

The revised draft plan is posted on the web at www.thinkvermont.com/telecomplan and will be available at regional planning commissions, regional libraries and on request from the Department.

The Department will hold two additional public hearings on the revised draft prior to adopting a final plan. One hearing will be held over the network of Vermont Interactive Television on July 6, and another hearing, to be held jointly with the Vermont House Commerce Committee and the Vermont Senate Finance Committee, will be announced at a later date. The Department will also consider written comments on the draft received through July 12.

The date and locations of the public hearing are:

- July 6, 7-10 p.m. at any one of these Vermont Interactive Television studios--
Bennington, Mt. Anthony Lodge, 504A Main Street, Basement
Brattleboro, BDCC Business Park, Unit 100, 22 Browne Court
Castleton, Castleton State College, Stafford Academic Center Room 142
Johnson, Johnson State College, Bentley Hall Room 211
Lyndonville, Lyndon State College, 1001 College Road
Middlebury, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave, 2nd Floor
Newport, North Country Union High School, 209 Veterans Avenue
Randolph Center, Vermont Technical College, Morrill Hall
Rutland, Stafford Technical Center, 8 Stratton Road, Room 222
Springfield, Howard Dean Education Center, 307 South Street
St. Albans, Bellows Free Academy, 4 Hospital Drive
Waterbury, State Office Complex, Stanley Hall
White River Jct., Community College of Vermont, 52 Olcott Drive
Williston, VTC-Blair Park, 452 Lawrence Place

Copies of the plan or information about the process may be obtained from the Department of Public Service by calling 802 828-2811, via electronic mail to vtdps@state.vt.us , or by writing to the Department of Public Service, 112 State Street, Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05620-2601. Comments are always welcome.

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